

Appl. No. 10/086,340
Response dated January 13, 2005
Response to Office Action of September 15, 2004

Amendments to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A display support for releasably and rigidly holding a flat display comprising:

(a) a base frame member;

(b) first and second side frame members extending upwardly from opposing ends of said base frame member, said side frame members and said base frame member each having a substantially "U" shaped channel formed therein, said channel in said first side frame member facing said channel in said second side frame member and said channel in said base frame member facing upwardly to form a continuous channel whereby said display slides into and is supported by said channel defined by said frame members; and

(c) support means for supporting said frame members and attaching to a towing hitch on a vehicle, said support means comprising:

(i) a first support member having first and second ends, said first end having a complementary trailer hitch attachment for mating with the towing hitch on the vehicle, wherein the trailer hitch attachment is adapted for being positioned within the towing hitch and receiving an engaging member for

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connecting the trailer hitch attachment and the towing hitch; and

(ii) a second support member connected to the second end of said first support member and extending substantially perpendicularly therefrom, said base frame member attached to said second support member whereby said display is positioned above said towing hitch.

Claim 2 (original): A display support according to claim 1, wherein said flat display is a sign.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A display support according to claim 1, wherein said support means comprises a first bracket having opposing ends connected to said first and second side frame members for mounting said frame members to said second support member.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A display support according to claim 3 wherein said first bracket includes apertures therein for mounting said frame members to said second support member.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A display support according to claim 3, further comprising at least one adjustable stabilizing member for attaching to said first bracket and said

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second support member whereby said frame members are stabilized on said second support member.

Claim 6 (original): A display support according to claim 1, further comprising at least one horizontal bracket having opposing ends connected to said first and second side frame members and having apertures therein for attaching accessories such as lights and license plates.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A display support according to claim 1, wherein said first support member is positioned horizontally, and said second support member is positioned vertically.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A display support according to claim 3, wherein said support means comprises a second bracket connected to said first and second side frame members proximate top ends of said first and second side frame members, and further comprising at least one adjustable stabilizing member for attaching to said second bracket and said second support member whereby said frame members are stabilized on said second support member.

Claim 9 (canceled).

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Claims 10-13 (withdrawn).

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A display support for holding a flat display comprising:

- (a) a single sheet of material having a plurality of apertures formed therein;
- (b) said apertures adapted for permitting said flat display to be attached to said sheet of material by fasteners extending through said flat display and said apertures;
- (c) a horizontal support member having first and second ends, said first end having ~~attachment means~~ a complementary trailer hitch attachment for releasable attachment to a towing hitch on an automobile, wherein the trailer hitch attachment is adapted for being positioned within the towing hitch and receiving an engaging member for connecting the trailer hitch attachment and the towing hitch; and
- (d) a vertical support member connected to the second end of said horizontal support member and extending upwardly therefrom, said sheet of material mounted on said vertical support member by a fastener extending through at least one of said apertures whereby said display is positioned above said towing hitch.

Claim 16 (withdrawn).

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Claim 17 (previously presented): A display support for holding a flat display according to claim 15, wherein said apertures comprise four horizontally oriented rectangular apertures, each of said apertures positioned proximate a corner of said sheet and for receiving a strap extending vertically from said sheet of material.

Claim 18 (original): A display support for holding a flat display according to claims 17 wherein said apertures further comprise two pairs of vertically oriented rectangular apertures positioned on opposing sides of said sheet of material for receiving straps extending horizontally from said sheet of material.

Claim 19 (new): A display support according to claim 1, wherein the trailer attachment includes a first aperture for aligning with a second aperture defined by the towing hitch, whereby the trailer hitch attachment and towing hitch are connected by positioning the engaging member through the first and second apertures.

Claim 20 (new): A display support according to claim 1, wherein the first support member and the second support member form an "L"-shaped support, and the base frame member is perpendicular to the first support member.